MIDDLE SCHOOL GOOD TIMES

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SNOWFEST A SUCCESS

7th and 8th graders had a great time at the Snowfest Friday night .

Photos were taken for $1.00 each. Refreshments were provided by the cookies peoples' mothers sent...(rumor has it some eighth grade guys did some baking too!)

Students voted Thursday for King and Queen and Prince and Princess. Tommy Kolenko and Taylor Largent were crowned king and queen while Kelly Veley and Joe Motter were princess and prince.

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FOUR CHOIRS IN CONCERT

by casey and sam

This year for the holiday concert we had four different choirs: 7th grade, 8th grade, concert choir and Voices of the Future.

The music they sang is listed here by choir group. 7th did Island Christmas, Angels We Have Heard on High, Keeping Christmas,and Light up the Tree. 8th grade sang Do You Hear What I Hear? Christmas Joy, Carols Around,and Born this Day.

The High School Choir sang Sweet Singing in the Choir, Sing Noel, Noel, The Most Wonderful Time of the Year, and Carol of the Bells. The Voices of the Future sang, A Child is Born, African Noel and Angels Carol.

SKI CLUB PLANS SEVERAL TRIPS by .h. anderson

Ski trips are planned for Bittersweet for January 16 all day, January 21 or 23 after school, February 3 after school and February 13 all day.

The members of the Ski Club are Julie Abnet, Ashley Alexander, Aaron Avery, Lindsey Boulter, Jacob Branch, Caitlin Brown, Jordan Brown, Matt Bush, Krista Champion, Lindsey Dalga, Jon DeCou, Lori Ferrari, Heather Galbraith, Kevin Garceau, Shanna Grubaugh, Cara Garland, Melissa Harris, Brandon Heldt, Katie Henley, Casey Hentchel, Becky Hughes, Evan Jordan, Matt Kilts, Tom Kolenko, Courtney Kuntz, Breanne LaGrande, Ryan Lee, Nate Maxwell, Kurt Moss, Jessica Olman, Eric Pasman, Amy Pickens, Kim Pizarek, Hannah Rice, Shannon Ruhf, Brett and Sean Seymour, Danielle Small, Brandy Soule, Tim Taylor, Ryan Terry, Chad Terry, Megan Thyfault, Ryan Thyfault, Kelly Veley, Renee Vesey, Robert Humphrey, Dan and David Peat, Katie Eldred, Candi Cole, Brandon Weaver, Lauren Peter, Ashley Herron, and Lisa Pizarek.

SIXTH GRADE UPDATES

Wonder what's going on in the sixth grade? Mr. Crook and Mr. Wilson are doing multiplication

contests on Fridays between the two teams.

Sixth graders can open up lockers... at least as well as the rest of the students, providing they have a locker whose door shuts the way it should and whose lock actually works right.

They had an ice cream social in early December and then went to see Rocketman.

Mr. Lutz is still using the question book, for those who remember it.

HANSON: IN or OUT?

Ever since MArch 25th, `1997, girls from all over have been stuck on three guys and screaming their names: Isaac, 17, Taylor, 14, and Zac 12. They're brothers in the music business but are they really that great? We think so, but some don't.

We have asked some people about their opinions. One 7th grade girl says, " I think Hanson is musically talented because they play their own instruments and they sing their own songs. I mean , compare them to the Spice Girls. Do the Spice Girls play instruments? No and Hanson has had success earlier, and there are more Spice Girls play instruments? No, and Hanson's had success earlier, and there are more Spice Girls than Hansons.

An 8th grade girl says, "I like Isaac. He is so awesome. He wrote his first song in third grade and that says a lot. He can play piano AND guitar. Cool."

We asked people who don't like Hanson too. All of them said, "They sing like girls." or "They look like girls."

There's a reason for that. Taylor and Zac's voices hadn't changed yet when they recorded "Middle of Nowhere" and "MMMBopp". So, of course they'd sound a little bit like girls. But in their new CD, "Snowed In", Taylor's voice has very much changed. It is much more adult and deeper.

Well, who knows? They may not reign all but people do have their own opinions. So whether you like 'em or hate 'em or don't even know who they are, they are still there and judging by the fan crowd, they will be here for a while.

by Cay and Sky.

HAIKU POEM by m. bass

The light fades away
desolved by the darkened sky
taken by evil.

WHO'S ST. NICK REALLY?

He was the patron saint of children ever since the 5th century. A bishop in what is now Turkey, legend says he gave gifts to three poor girls so that they had money for dowries and could be married. From this tale comes the idea of secret gifts on the Eve of St. Nicholas, Dec. 5. Out of that idea has grown the custom of SinterKlaas, Dutch for St. Nick.

Most of the information about him and about the legends are conflicting and difficult to sort out

but the idea of a special gift giver who shows up at Christmas comes from this man who lived in the 300's A.D.

DEAR DR. LOVE,

I am going out with this one girl but I want to go out with her friend. What should I do? Also the girl I WANT to go out with is going with someone else.

Love, ME

DEAR ME,

You should just wait until this girl breaks up with her boyfriend. Then if you still like her, ask her if she has feelings for you. If she does, let your girlfriend down easy. Then wait for a while and ask her friend out.

DEAR DR. LOVE,

I am going out with this girl from Mattawan, but I like a girl here. Would it be wrong to go out with both if they don't know it?

Sincerely,

Big A ME

DEAR BIG,

I think you should pick the one you like the most and go for it.

RUDOLPH and COLLEAGUES TO GO ON STRIKE by mary krismus

NORTHPOLE.

It's official. Rudolph and all the other reindeer are on strike. It appears that Jolly Ole St. Nick is not a good employer. According to PRancer, he " works us day and night , practicing for Christmas Eve. The food's so awful-.it's compost -that I think I'm going to be sick."

Vixen further elaborated by saying, "The stables look like... well, like stables..dirty and disgusting. They never clean them."

So one night Donder got the idea to go on strike. "I said, 'Hey humans can do it. Why can't we?" Since Donder was shy, Rudolph volunteered to be leader of the group. He said he would not rest " until we have overcome our Yuletide oppressors."

The reindeer's demands are cleaned stables at least once a week, all natural reindeer food. (the canned stuff, not that dry junk) and a thirty-six hour work week with Sundays off.

. So far they have not reached a settlement. And until they do, don't expect any presents under the tree this year. We'll keep you posted.

THE TRUE STORY OF THE PPMS BASEMENT..THE LABYRINTH

by d.zolp

Q. What is really down there?

A. Junk. Absolutely junk. Mostly old textbooks, desk and other things too numerous to mention.

Q. Are there any animals down there?

A. Yes. Mostly bats and pigeons. Many insects and critters with legs... a whole ecosystem exists down there.

Q. Is it dirty and does it smell bad?

A. Absolutely. You name it, you smell it. Also there's 75 years of dirt and grime.

Q. Did anyone die down there?
A. Probably not but you have your stories.
Q. What color is the boiler?
A. White and it's big too.
Q. Could I or should I go down there?
A. No it's off limits to all but the janitor and a few teachers with an urge for adventure.

LETTER TO THE GOOD TIMES

Melissa Knoll said something about the PPMS Pep Squad in the last issue of the paper. I thought the pep squad was a good idea until I heard it was only cheering for the guys. Well, girls need cheering too.

Nobody came to their basketball games. When we scored to did something good we didn't even have any ackknowledgement for it. When we won we didn't even hear" Good Job." I think we should have a pep squad in both the girl and the guy crowds. Just consider it. by a. alex

WRESTLING TEAM

Interested in joining the wrestling team? Sign up in the office . First practice is January 5 when we return from vacation.

8TH GRADERS CAN DO IT

Yup the 8th graders collected a ton of cans and won the competition.. getting an ice cream party at lunch for all the cans they donated to the hungry people in Van Buren County.

Let's get those last mittens and hats turned in tomorrow for the hat/ coat/ mitten drive.

GUESS WHO'S a FIRST TIME GRANDPA? Mr. Lutz.

BASKETBALL SEASON STARTS!

The eighth grade A team includes Matt Bailley, MAtt Bass, Rich Rennhack, Nate Schmucker, Nate Offord, Nate Carr, Dexter Fossitt, Clay Stull, Eric Pasman, Tony LeDuc, Kasey Cooper, and Dustin Messer.

The B includes Tyler Pennington, Nate Stoughton, Tony Frego, Nate Maxwell, Andy Goldberg, Corey Aldrich, John Hopson, Drew Zolp, John Ruggles, Tom Kolenko, Evan Jordan, Shawn Lietzau, and Ted Crook.

There is also an intermural group meeting . If you're interested ask someone in the office about it.

HOW TO BAKE A CAKE

Go to the store. Buy a mix. Buy fudge frosting..of course. Now read the simple instructions on the box. Bake and enjoy.

MEET MR. STIMAC

Mr. Stimac has moved from 4th grade to 6th grade. He said he came over to the middle school because he wanted "a change in his teaching career and he wanted to teach social studies."

Mr. Stimac has been married 31 years. He likes teaching because every day is different. He likes working with people.

He loves diet coke and folk music. His favorite subject is history and reading.

He has been teaching for 21

years. His first year of teaching was here at the middle school. Then he was at Cedar Street for nineteen years. As a kid he went to St. Mary School and for college he went to Western... for eight years.

Mr. Stimac was in the Air Force for four years. He trained attack dogs. His favorite animal is dogs. He likes football and reading science fiction.

When he's not teaching social studies and reading, you can find Mr. Stimac teaching driver's ed with Mr. Zolp

HOLIDAYS: A TURKEY'S WAY by shawn vincent

One year, not too many years ago, Don't Eat Me the turkey decided to change things on Thanksgiving Day. He was sick and tired of people eating his relatives so he was determined to do something about it. Don't Eat Me finally decided what to do. Two days before Thanksgiving Day, when nobody was home, he climbed into the house through an open window, opened the door and let the dog out.

When the dog was out, Don't Eat Me left a note on the table saying that they wouldn't ever see the dog again if they ever killed or ate another turkey. Then Don't Eat Me put a leash on the dog's collar and a muzzle over its mouth. He led the dog into the woods and tied it to a tree. He also left the dog with food and water. When everybody got home and had read the note, they were scared.

The next morning there was another note on the table which read, "Dear people. Your dog is safe and unharmed. The only way you can have turkey tomorrow is if you invite them, not eat them. As I promised, if you ever eat or kill another turkey again , you will not see your dog again...but if you promise not to ever eat turkey, your dog will be home tomorrow. Signed Anonymous."

The people quickly agreed and the next day, just like he promised, the dog was returned home. The people decided to have ham for their holidays and stayed that way until 1953. Don't Eat ME was happy until then.. becasue that's when his name was changed into They Ate Me.

DECEMBER BAND CONCERT

The middle school 7th and 8th grade bands played along with the high school last Thursday in our auditorium.

Seventh graders played Infinity March, Midnight Rock, TRailblazers, Navy Hymn and Christmas Bits and Pieces. Eighth grade band played Brandenburg Gate, All for Chanukah, For The Beauty of the Earth, Jass Rambleand Christmas Spectacular.

NEWS STAFF THIS MONTH

Ryan Thyfault, Matt Zinkil, Isaac Ruthruff, Josh Brown, Matt Billheimer, Dani Small,. Julie Baltmanis, Merry Roberts, KAtie Tapper, Sean Salefske, Amanda Hudson, Ramsey Beyer, Katie

Swigart, Adam Anderer, Stacei Wood, Allyson Newlin, Casey Martin, Sam Millek, CeGee Heldt, Casey McKEnzie, Heather Anderson, Kevin Mattison, Rich Rennhack, Nate KRefman, Evan Jordan, John Hopson, Ashley Herron, Kellie Nugteren, Katie Eldred, Melissa Knoll, Matt Bass, Tommy Kolenko Monika Barker, Jessica Krefman, Amanda Hudson, Carrie Cubbison, Nate Maxwell, Lori Ferrari, Ashley Alexander , Nate Offord, Ted Crook, Lindsey Boulter, Ashley Babin, Andy Godlberg and Ellen Tapper.

Next NEWS meeting date: January 21 lst and sixth hours.

RUMOR HAS IT re: SANTA

Sad news , Santa lovers. Crossroad Mall's Santa may be moving on to the Mall of America. Our loss, Minnesota' gain. (It does put him closer to the North Pole.).

FIGURE OUT THE NUMBER of TILES AND WIN a prize.

Just how many floor tiles are there on the first floor hallway? Guess the number today and turn in your guess before school ends tomorrow.... Closet answer wins.

Write the number on a slip of paper and take to room 203 or give to Julie Baltmanis or Katie Swigart by 2:30 tomorrow.

MATCH THE STAFF...

Below are the names of middle school staff members.
Fill in the blanks with the right first names and turn into room 203 or put in the box in the office marked GOOD TIMES... Do by January 5.

If more than one person has them right, there'll be a random drawing among those who have the answers in order to pick a winner.

Martin	Cassell
MArtin	Reisterer
MArtin	Reinsch
Smith Vall	
Smith Kolon	
Chludzinski	Colgrove
Kannegieter	Northuis
Ruesink	Pefley
Stimac	Shepherd
Zolp	Henson
Barnhouse	FIRSTS -
Schlarman	Sue Colette
Swanson	Lynette
Cowin	Lynwood
Lutz	John Terry
Hughes	Bill Laurel
Bolton	Jane Stan
Achambault Katie	Teresa
Gronda	Carol Anne
Crook	Suzanne
Dobbs	Coleen Jan
Brown	Amy Sybil
Mahanty	Lisa Eric
Pasman	Annette
Edinger	Donna Barb
Topp	Tom Diane
Wilson	Chris Larry
Baltmanis	Sally Lori
Kalisiak	Lee Don
Markovich	Betty
Zirkil Bruce	PAtty
	Rebecca
	Char Mike

ONLY six shopping days left!!!

DEAR DR. LOVE continued...

DEAR Dr. Love,

I'm in 6th grade and I like Evan Jordan. Should I try for him?

I luv J

DEAR I luvJ,

Evan is a man of great surprises... So I say follow your heart and go for it.

SURVEY SAYS!!!

QUESTION WAS ???

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WERE SANTA?

Andy Goldberg would lead a " lonely and miserable life." Craig Brightwell would "retire." Victoria Dean would "Use the sleigh to go on instant vacations."

Tom Kolenko would " cruise for chicks in my sleigh." Chicks? Hens? ... Mrs. Pasman would give " coal to al l the teen-agers." Miranda Crowder would " find a replacement one day of the year (Christmas)"/

Tyler Pennington would "take aerobics." Neal Conway would "change the color of the suit from red to yellow and then call Jenny Craig."

Jonathan Smith would "do the usual routine except I'd perform at airshows." Desiree Kern would "let people see me." Brandi Figg would " get all my friends gifts and give the elves the day off."

Jennie Swintz would " give more presents to the poor and people who can't afford a lot." Amy Jeschke would "exercise." Megan Krafft would " lose weight and move to Hawaii."

Christy Schuiteboer would "give all the less fortunate more gifts." Joel Yonkman's closing comment was " Well, since Santa isn't real, this question isn't possible to answer."

WORST HOLIDAY GIFTS EVER

Socks seemed to top the list of worst gifts. Maria Coles mentioned them as did many others. Sam Millek said, "a bar of soap, paper, batteries." Christina Burke recalls "A white headband with a big white bow and big jingle bell on the top."

Kelly Hover didn't like getting a coloring book. Mrs. Swanson used to hate getting petticoats. (anybody over 40 will remember those). Heather Anderson got a "Pocahontas Tape..at age 12." Ashley Herron recalled getting a "Baywatch Pamela Anderson Barbie."

Aaron Pullen got a "sports nintendo game. My parents thought I'd like it." Kasey Cooper got " a pink polkadot outfit with bunney ears and a tail too." Nicole Twardowski got " perfume that smelled rotten."

Nick Plug got "gloves" Ashely Genther got " Mickey Mouse clips for on your shoe laces." CF Munger got " as a joke, a pooper scooper." MAtt Bass got a "black turtleneck."

Erin Hamilton recalls getting " a Shivering Baby". Justin Munn got "a puzzle of a soldier." Ted Crook got , at age 11," two pairs of Flintstone boxers."

Melissa Knoll got " little pink earrings."

Kaycee Martin got" a pink sweatshirt with ruffles." Tony Gullotti 's worst present was either a box of rocks or socks. We weren't sure. Lacey Englehart got a clock that looks like a house."

John Ruggles got "towels from my grandma with pink dinosaurs on them." Nate Krefman got "A plastic gun. It was f or a two-year-old and it lit up and made wacky zapping sounds."

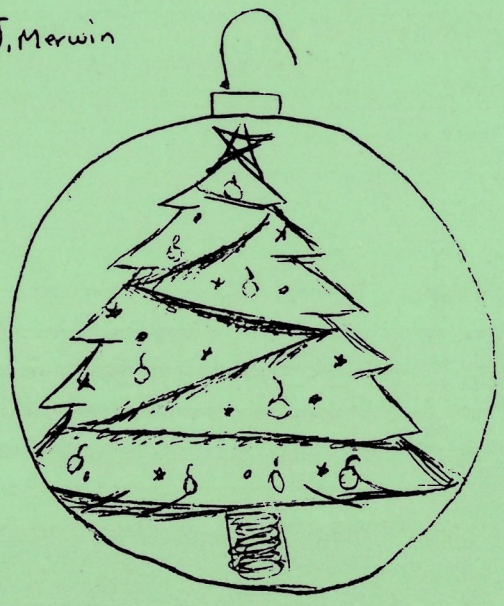
Kristen VanLoon's worst gift was "a CD of the Spice Girls."

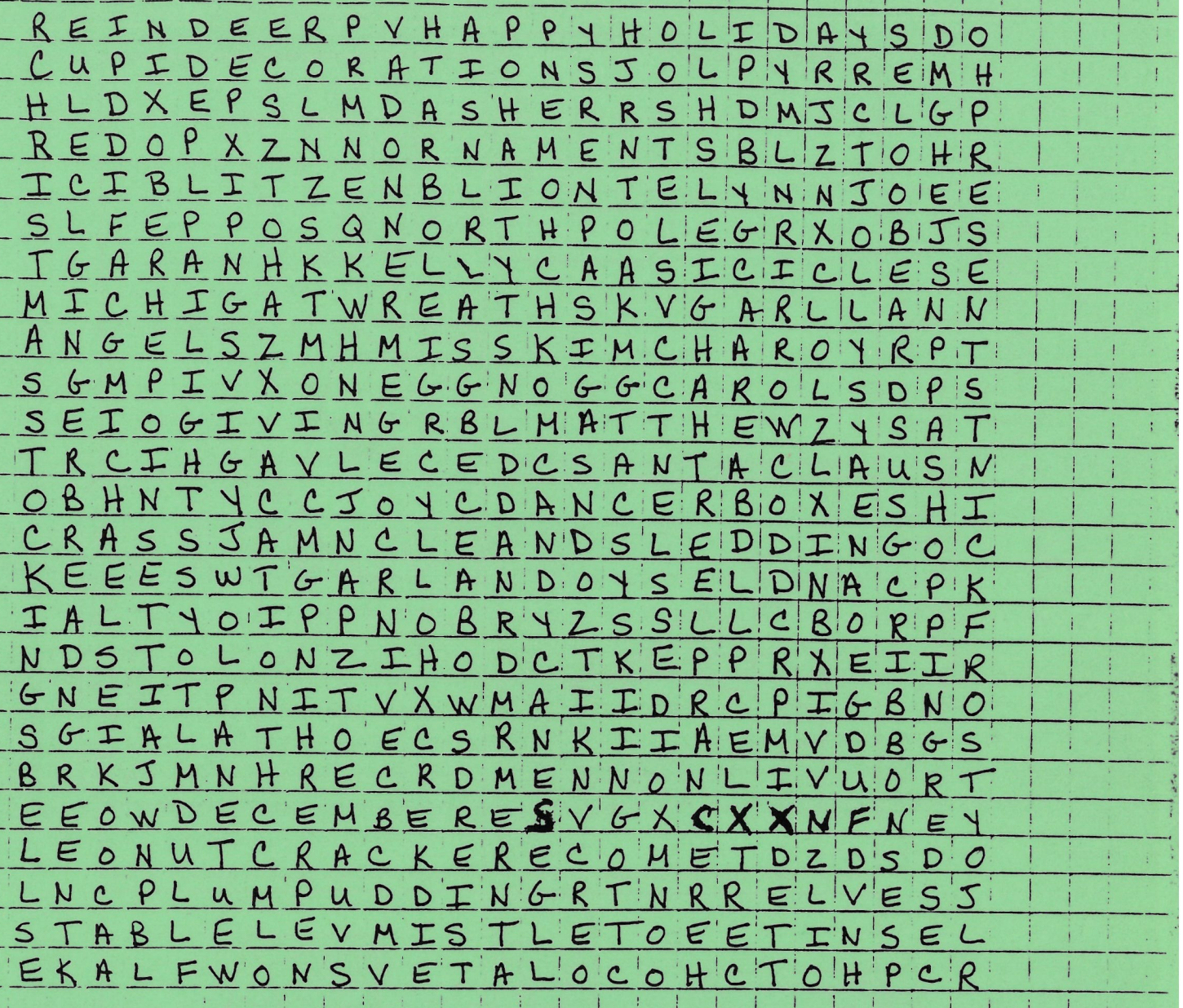
Then several of you echoed this comment from Mary Wren, Tricia Kannegieter, Jon DeCou and Arlie Owsiany by saying," I never got a bad gift."

Happy Holidays!

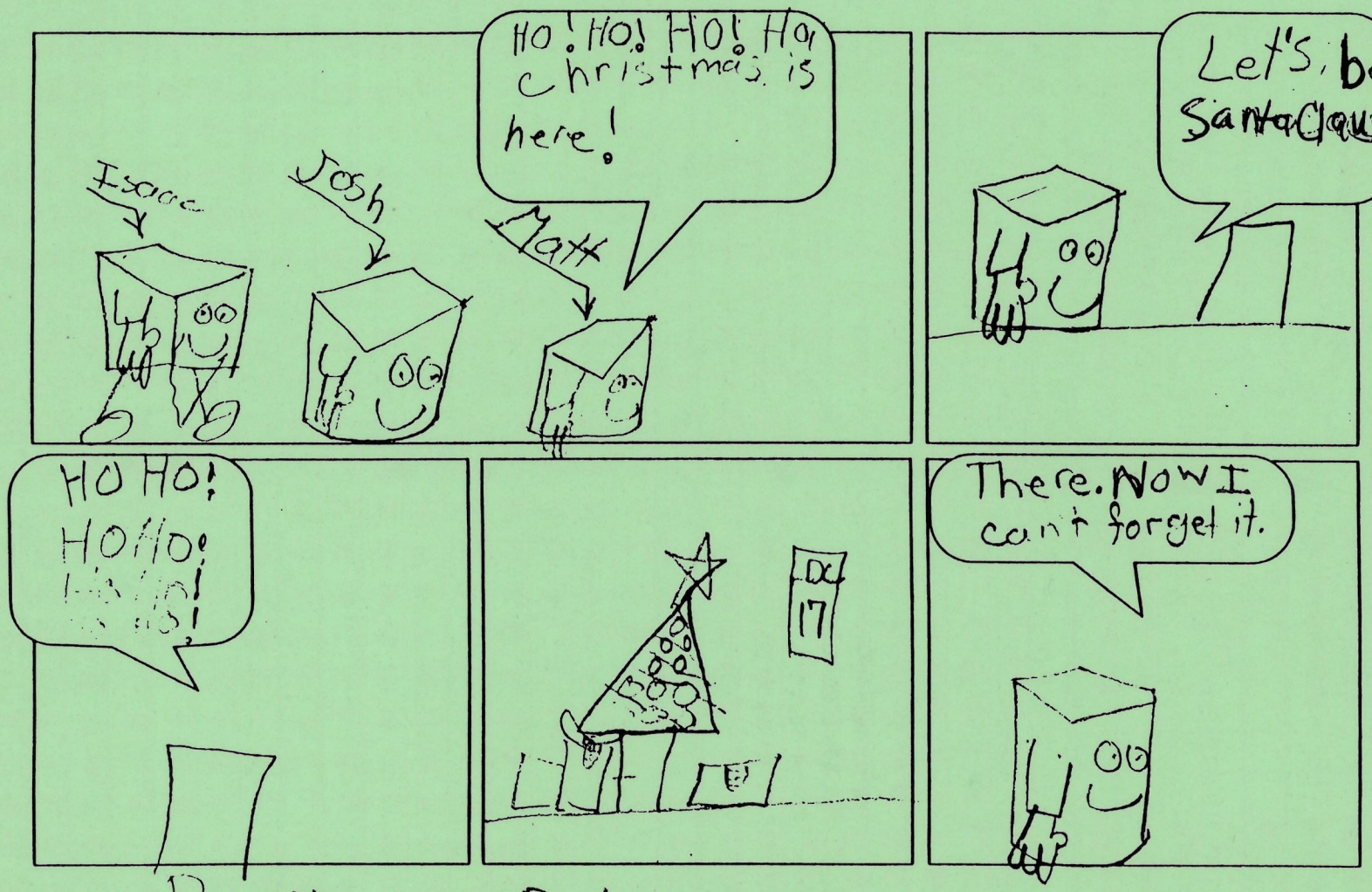
PS... ANYBODY KNOW WHO'S ON the 7TH GRADE BASKETBALL TEAM? IF SO, write it up as a story and give it to Mrs. Swanson for the next issue. Thank you.

By Andrea Ampey





1. Angels
2. Beard
3. Blitzen
4. Bows
5. Boxes
6. Candles
7. Candy Cane
8. Comet
9. Cookies
10. Cupid
11. Dancer
12. Dasher
13. December
14. Decorations
15. Donner
16. Eggnog
17. Elves
18. frosty
19. fudge
20. garland
21. gingerbread
22. giving
23. green
24. Happy Holidays
25. Holly
26. Hot Chocolate
27. Icicles
28 Jolly
29. joy
30. lights
31. merry
32. Mistletoe
33. Northpole
34 Nutcracker
35 ornaments
36 plum pudding
37 poinsettia
38 Prancer
39 presents
40 red
41 reindeer
42 ribbons
43 rudolph the red nose reindeer
44. santa claus
45 shopping
46 sleigh
47 snowflake
48 snowman
49 St. Nick
50 stable
51 star
52 tinsel
53. toys
54. tree
55. vacation
56 Vixen
57 winter
58. wreaths



By Isaac Ruthroff
& Matt Billheimer